

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (cancelled)

Claim 2 (currently amended): The bone plate assembly of Claim ~~[[1]]~~ 3, wherein said first and second portions are placed in slight compression by said threaded engagement between said screw and said hole in said second portion.

Claim 3 (currently amended): ~~The~~ A bone plate assembly ~~of Claim 1~~, comprising:

a bone plate including first and second extending portions defining an angle therebetween, wherein said first portion is forming an elongate plate portion having a plate portion longitudinal axis extending along the longest dimension of said elongate plate portion and a plurality of said holes therein, and said second portion forming is an elongate blade portion having a blade portion longitudinal axis extending along the longest dimension of said elongate blade portion, at least one hole therein, and a blade end, said blade portion longitudinal axis transverse to said plate portion longitudinal axis, said blade end having a tapered blade edge tapering along at least a portion of said longitudinal axis of said elongate blade portion, said blade portion have a first cross-section taken at a point on said blade portion longitudinal axis furthest from said plate portion and a second cross-section taken at a point on said blade portion longitudinal axis nearer said plate portion than said first cross-section, said first cross-section being less than said second cross-section, wherein said blade end facilitates the insertion of said elongate blade portion into a bone; and

a screw extending through a said hole in one of said first and second portions, said screw threadingly engaging another said hole in the other of said first and second portions, and an intermediate portion of said screw between said at least one hole in said first extending portion and said at least one hole in said second extending portion capable of engaging bone, wherein said screw spans said angle between said first and second portions.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The bone plate assembly of Claim 3, wherein said screw extends through one of said plurality of holes in said plate portion, and engages said at least one hole in said blade portion, wherein said screw extends through said plate portion to engage said at least one hole in said blade portion.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The bone plate assembly of Claim 4, wherein said at least one hole in said blade portion includes a ledge about at least a portion of the periphery thereof, said screw threadingly engaging said ledge.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The bone plate of Claim 1, wherein said angle has a radius dimensioned such that, with said first extending portion resting against an outer surface of a bone and said second extending portion extending into the bone, said radius fits closely adjacent the outside surface of the bone.

Claim 7 (original): The bone plate of Claim 6, wherein said radius is about 0.25 inches or less.

Claim 8-13 (cancelled)

Claim 14 (previously presented): A bone plate assembly, comprising:

a bone plate having elongate plate and blade portions connected to one another at a bend and disposed at an angle with respect to one another, said plate portion having a first hole therein and a second hole therein which is disposed intermediate said first hole and said bend, said second hole including first and second counterbores extending into opposite sides of said plate portion about said second hole, said elongate plate portion having a longitudinal axis;

a strut screw disposed through said first hole and extending toward said blade portion, said strut screw having a longitudinal axis, said longitudinal axis of said elongate plate portion and said longitudinal axis of said strut screw forming a plane; and

a top screw disposed through said second hole, said top screw extending angularly away from said plane, wherein said first and second counterbores of said second hole of said

plate portion allows said top screw to be disposed through said second hole in a plurality of different angular positions with respect to said plate portion.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The bone plate assembly of Claim 14, further comprising:
a third hole disposed intermediate said first and second holes; and
another top screw disposed through said third hole, said another top screw
extending angularly away from said plane.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The bone plate assembly of Claim 14, wherein said blade portion includes a hole therein through which said strut screw is threadedly engaged.

Claims 17 - 40 (cancelled)

Claim 41 (previously presented): The bone plate of Claim 14, wherein said bend has a radius defined intermediate said plate portion and said blade portion, said radius dimensioned such that, with said plate portion resting against an outer surface of a bone and said blade portion extending into the bone, said radius fits closely adjacent the outside surface of the bone.

Claim 42 (previously presented): The bone plate of Claim 41, wherein said radius is about 0.25 inches or less.

Claim 43 (previously presented): The bone plate assembly of Claim 16, wherein said strut screw includes an intermediate portion between said first hole in said plate portion and said hole in said blade portion capable of engaging bone.

Claim 44 (new): The bone plate assembly of Claim 3, wherein said first cross-section comprises a substantially U-shaped cross-section.